



# HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 4 NOVEMBER

31<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

· A ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH · THE DOMINICAN PRESENCE IN LEICESTER SINCE 1247 ·

## A WORD FROM THE PRIOR ...

*It will be a busy week with the St Martin Novena, and it will be a real treat to have Fr Timothy Radcliffe with us on Friday. This is a perfect opportunity to invite your friends to Holy Cross. We're beginning to work towards Advent and the Market. It's very encouraging to see all the enthusiasm around.*

*Be intent on prayer, and whatever may happen will turn to our good.  
Fr David*

## THE ANNUAL ST MARTIN NOVENA: 3 – 11 NOVEMBER

Our annual Novena in honour of St Martin de Porres begins next Saturday with Solemn Mass at 12:30pm, and continues between the two feast days of St Martin de Porres, the saintly Dominican tertiary, and St Martin of Tours, the patron saint of our city. Highlights include a healing Mass at 12:30pm on Saturday 10 November, and a keynote lecture on the Hope for Christians in Iraq by Fr Timothy Radcliffe on Friday 9 November at 7:15pm. Please see the flyers and take them away for distribution.

## THE ADVENT MARKET

We will celebrate the Advent Market on Sunday 2 December, the First Sunday of Advent, and so we will begin over the next few weeks to reach our target of £5,000. Thank you to everyone who has already started to get the ball rolling.

## NOVEMBER – MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

Envelopes for the November Dead List are now available. Please insert the names of your deceased loved ones into the envelope along with your donation and return it to us. Mass is offered every day in November. Our annual Requiem Mass for all the Faithful Departed will be celebrated on **Wednesday 28 November at 7:15pm.**

## SHOP REPOSITORY

Christmas stock is now out in the shop, please come in and have a look at what we have on offer.

## LEICESTER CATHOLIC STUDENTS

Social Gathering on Sunday evening after the 7pm Mass. We still have places for our weekend retreat to the Briars next weekend, so don't miss out on that. On the Feast of Christ the King, there will be an evening trip to Nottingham Cathedral for Mass.

Office Administrator: *Mrs Rachael Powell* – [leicester.admin@english.op.org](mailto:leicester.admin@english.op.org)

Director of Music: *Mr Thomas Keogh* – [thomas@thomaskeogh.co.uk](mailto:thomas@thomaskeogh.co.uk)

For the Office Administrator, please call **0116 252 1501**

**Holy Cross Priory, 45 Wellington Street, LE1 6HW. Tel: 0116 252 1501**

## MONEY MATTERS

Last week's collections:

**£1249.39**; (Gift Aid-£339.50) Woodhouse: **£112.00**; (Gift Aid-£88.00)

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!*

## NOTICE BOARD

### BAPTISM PREPARATION

If you wish to have your child baptised, please attend one of our baptism preparation sessions. The next is on Sunday 4 November after the 10:30am Mass in St Clement's Hall.

### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CONFIRMATION

Please get in touch with the Priory Office if members of your family wish to celebrate these sacraments.

### MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Couples who are preparing for the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony should make an appointment with the Parish Priest in the first instance.

### BECOMING CATHOLIC

Any adult who wishes to become a Catholic or receive Confirmation should join our RCIA programme, which will begin in the next few weeks.

### VISITING THE SICK

The Faithful who are sick and housebound can arrange a visit from a priest or special minister by calling 0116 252 1501.

### FAMILY VISITS

Families who would like a house blessing or a pastoral visit at home, can make arrangements by calling 0116 252 1501

# THE WORD AT WORK: OUR WEEKLY REFLECTION

## NOVENA TO ST MARTIN DE PORRES

*As we celebrate the St Martin Novena this week, Fr David reflects on the Devotion to St Martin de Porres, and what it means for him and for us.*

Like so many Irish Dominicans, I received my vocation to the Order partly through Devotion to St Martin. Of all the great Saints of our Order, it was St Martin whose Shrine was most lavishly festooned in the Dominican Church, and it is rare to find a Dominican Church in which his image is not prominent and his devotion promoted. In 1945, the Irish Provincial, Fr Glendon OP, brought an image of Blessed Martin, as he was in those days, from New York. He had it installed in our Sister Church, Holy Cross Priory in Tralee. From there, devotion to Blessed Martin spread through the British Isles.

Over the years, one cannot fail to notice how many people connected with our Dominican Churches are named "Martin" or "Martina" in his honour. "Martin" is my own Confirmation Name. I remember announcing this to the late Fr Redmond Fitzmaurice OP, from whom I won the princely sum of 20 pence. My Granny made me give the 20 pence to St Martin, something I felt was unfair at the time. But since the Shrine said that donations to St Martin were "*for the training of Dominican Priests*", it was actually an investment in my future. All of the prayers of poor people that supported the training of generations of us, how wonderful!

Devotion to St Martin has been for me a real school in the practical living of the Gospel. At the time of my Confirmation, a Christian Brother who knew me only too well, asked me if I thought I could live up to having St Martin as my Confirmation Saint – the patron of my adulthood. I'm still trying! Martin is a Saint of encounter with Christ. His merciful and loving interaction with the poor and the sick made Christ truly present in his charity and humility all those years ago in Lima. Over the years, all of us who have sought his intercession and tried to imitate his humility have found in him a model of Christ to follow, and a good and faithful friend.

The fact that we have two images of St Martin in our Church in Leicester is testimony to the fact that this devotion has been a huge part of the lives of the people of Holy Cross. Many people remember the Blessed Martin booklets in which there was information, petitions, and thanksgivings. In this great city, which has St Martin of Tours as its patron, wouldn't it be wonderful if we could revive and renew devotion to this great Saint of our Order. St Martin is a guide for us of God's mercy, teaching us how to make that mercy known through holy living. I hope and pray that renewed and fervent devotion to him will be a legacy of our Jubilee Years as we go forward to the third century of Holy Cross.

Each day, at the beginning of my work, I always take a moment to ask St Martin's intercession, that I might be like him in being a person who can make Christ present in charity and humility. I ask him to help me to live up to the challenge presented to me by that holy Christian Brother all those years ago, to prove myself worthy of having him as my patron. And I thank him that he invested my 20 pence much better than I would. Nowadays, I pray for our Provincial, who has St Martin as his patron also. I hope that you might grow closer in devotion to him, meet Christ in him, and preach him to others.

St Martin, help us, heal us. Keep us safe and bring us through this vale of tears to the feet of Jesus and Mary.

*Fr David Rocks O.P.*